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ON arriving at the close of our fifth volume, it may be permitted to speak briefly of ourselves. It is not for us to say how far we have fulfilled the expectations given in our prospectus. Whether our sentiments on political subjects are approved or not, we have spoken with honesty our undisguised opinions, nor have we sacrificed sincerity for the sake of popularity. The same line we are determined to pursue, and to speak unwelcome truths at the risque of diminishing our sales. Private emolument has not been made our object in this publication: A consciousness of self-approbation, and the applause of a discerning few are noble rewards.

To our correspondents we acknowledge our obligations for many valuable communications, and solicit a continuance of their favours. Through their kind assistance our pages have been often enriched.

It is impossible to please all tastes. We have been censured for very opposite qualities. Some have told us, our pages have been too learned; and others have blamed us for a defect in this respect. We have been called too grave, and trifling has been recommended to us. But we fear many mistake as to the qualities which a magazine ought to possess, and have formed their judgments on the defective models, by which the Irish taste has been vitiated. After the plan of the most respectable British publications of a similar kind, we have aimed to make a magazine a collection of important information on a variety of subjects, not merely calculated to amuse an idle hour, but to raise the mind to higher views. We put in our claims for some share in the honour of literature, to which we are desirous to conduct our readers, and which we consider to be strictly compatible with the nature of a periodical miscellany.

It would be amusing if we could convey in a short compass to our readers, all the hints we have received intended for our instruction.

We have been advised to abandon graver subjects, and give receipts in quackery and cookery. Perhaps a report of the fashions would be acceptable to many of our readers. We have also been advised to give a frontispiece, as a decoration to each number. If we had a subject to illustrate by a good print, we should not object to the expense of an engraving; but we cannot consent to abuse the public by giving pretended likenesses, or amuse by the frivolities and refuse of the graphic art.

We hope it will not be imputed to us as arrogance, if we venture to decline much of the advice we have received; yet we are not too proud to learn, and shall willingly avail ourselves of the instruction which our correspondents and friends may communicate to us, but we cannot promise to surrender our own judgments, and we are convinced such a sacrifice would not be required of us by those best qualified to instruct.

We trust we shall not be considered as presumptuous, if we characterize our labours in the words of the poet...

“ Content, if hence the unlearn’d their wants may view,
 The learn’d reflect on what before they knew;
 Careless of censure, nor too fond of fame,
 Still pleas’d to praise, but not afraid to blame,
 Averse alike to flatter, or offend,
 Not free from faults, nor yet too vain to mend.”